

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 013196

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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013196

FOR AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANAGUA 0271 ACTION SECSTATE INFO GUATEMALA
SAN JOSE SAN SALVADOR TEGUCIGALPA 20 JAN

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0271

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HO, ES, GT, NU

SUBJECT: C.A. PRESIDENTS MEETING RE TRADE ACT

REF: MANAGUA 0264

1. PRESIDENT SOMOZA HAS FURNISHED US WITH A COPY OF THE DECLARATION
OF SANTO TOMAS DE CASTILLO SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENTS OF GUATEMALA,
EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1975.
AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE DECLARATION FOLLOWS:

" ON THE OCCASION OF TODAY'S COMMEMORATION OF THE 16TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE GUATEMALAN NAVY, THE PRESIDENTS OF EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS,
NICARAGUA AND GUATEMALA TALKED ABOUT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: THE
TRADE ACT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OF 1974 AND THE ACTIONS
THAT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES WILL FOLLOW IN 1975 WITH RE-
SPECT TO THE NORMALIZATION OF CENTRAL AMERICAN RELATIONS; THE RE-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 013196

STRUCTURING AND PERFECTION OF THE COMMON MARKET AND THE SOCIO-

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF THE AREA.

"THERE WAS CONSENSUS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS OF EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA AND GUATEMALA THAT THE NEW TRADE ACT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONTAINS POSITIVE ELEMENTS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO MAKE TRADE RELATIONS IN THE HEMISPHERE MORE JUST AND EQUITABLE, PRINCIPALLY AT THE TIME WHEN ECONOMIC BLOCKS ARE BEING FORMED THAT EFFECT, OR COULD EFFECT, THEIR INTERESTS. THEY EXPRESSED, NEVERTHELESS, CONCERN THAT WITHIN THE SPHERE OF INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS DISCRIMINATORY ELEMENTS ARE INTRODUCED THAT COULD EFFECT SISTER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 5 OF SAID LAW. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR HOPES THAT SUCH PROVISIONS COULD BE ELIMINATED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF DIALOG THAT ADEQUATE REGIONAL FORUMS OFFER HAVING AS AN ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE THE CONTINUED SOLIDARITY AND PROGRESS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLES. THE PRESIDENTS EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING THE PRINCIPLE OF INTER-AMERICAN SOLIDARITY, WITH THE CONVICTION THAT THROUGH DIALOG THE BEST SOLUTIONS TO CONTINENTAL PROBLEMS CAN BE FOUND, AVOIDING CONFRONTATIONS THAT MIGHT DETERIORATE TRADITIONAL FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN STATES.

"THEY REITERATED THEIR INTENTION TO EXERT THE MAXIMUM EFFORT IN ORDER THAT DURING 1975 FORMULAS CAN BE ADOPTED THAT CAN NORMALIZE DEFINITELY THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SISTER REPUBLICS OF EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS.

"THEY LOOKED WITH PLEASURE ON THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS OF CABCAR THAT TOOK PLACE IN COSTA RICA ON THE 13TH AND 14TH OF JANUARY, AND THE CONSULTATIONS THAT TOOK PLACE EXTRA-OFFICIALLY IN THESE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE MINISTERS OF ECONOMY. THEY AGREED THAT IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME THE POSITIONS OF THE FIVE COUNTRIES

SHOULD BE MADE KNOWN WITH RESPECT TO THE DRAFT TREATY PRESENTED BY SIECA LAST DECEMBER, WHICH HAS BEEN ANALYZED BY THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE (CAN).

"THEY EXPRESSED THEIR CONVICTION THAT SOCIAL PEACE IS AN INDISPENSABLE CONDITION FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA. AND IN CONSEQUENCE, THEY INTERPRETED THE GENERAL SENTIMENT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PEOPLES, REPUDIATE AND CONDEMN ALL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 013196

ACTS OF VIOLENCE THAT TEND TO DISTURB IT.

"THEY REGRETTED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA, LIC. DANIEL ODUBER QUIROZ WAS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING BECAUSE OF STATE COMMITMENTS.

"THE DECLARATION IS PUBLISHED IN SANTO TOMAS DE CATILLO, ISABALA, REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA ON THE 18TH OF JANUARY, 1975."

2. PRESIDENT SOMOZA HAS ADVISED THAT THE REPLY TO THE LETTER OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ WILL BE DRAFTED ALONG THE LINES OF THE DECLARATION OF SANTO TOMAS DE CASTILLO. THERE IS STRONG INDICATION THAT THERE WAS A COMPLETE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING ON THE PART OF SEVERAL PRESIDENTS PRESENT OF THE SUBSTANCE

OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974, AND THAT THEIR PRINCIPAL KNOWLEDGE WAS OF THE RESTRICTIVE ASPECTS CONTAINED IN TITLE 5. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE

ABOVE QUOTED DECLARATION OF THE FOUR PRESIDENTS IS CONSIDERABLY MORE MODERATE THAN THE DECLARATION ISSUED BY COSTA RICA. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT TWO IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL DECLARATIONS ARE INCLUDED REGARDING THE DESIRE TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR, AND A CONDEMNATION OF ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHICH IS PARTICULARLY HELPFUL AT THIS TIME IN VIEW OF THE RECENT TERRORIST ATTACK IN NICARAGUA.

SHELTON UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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